

City of Norfolk
Virginia

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the mental health of our citizens is essential to the continued well-being and vitality of our families, businesses, and communities; and

WHEREAS, mental health issues affect parents, sisters, brothers and co-workers – all of the people in our lives; and

WHEREAS, people with mental illnesses are more likely to recover if given the necessary services and support in their communities; and

WHEREAS, only one out of two people with a serious form of mental illness seeks treatment; and

WHEREAS, stigma and fear of discrimination keep many who would benefit from mental health services from seeking help; and

WHEREAS, greater public awareness about mental illnesses can change negative attitudes and behaviors toward people with mental illnesses; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 observance of Mental Health Awareness Month will help raise awareness of the importance of mental health and the stigma people with mental illness face, while delivering the message that, with proper treatment, recovery is possible.

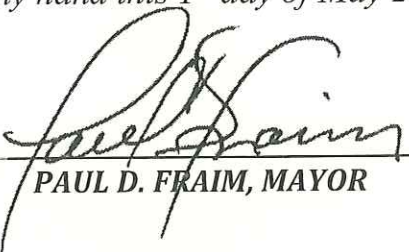
NOW, THEREFORE, I, PAUL D. FRAIM, Mayor of the City of Norfolk, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2013 as

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Norfolk and call upon all Norfolk's citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illnesses, reducing stigma and discrimination, and promoting appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses.

Given under my hand this 1st day of May 2013




PAUL D. FRAIM, MAYOR